

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GW, WB, PL, PGOV, OTRA, AFSP
SUBJECT: POLISH POLICY FOR ACCEPTING FRG VISAS TO VISIT WEST BERLIN

REFS: A) USBERLIN 650, B) BONN 4004, C) 76 USBERLIN 2364

SUMMARY: RECENT EXCHANE BETWEEN MEMBER OF POLISH
MILITARY MISSION IN WEST BERLIN AND BRITISH MISSION
EMPLOYEE SUGGESTS POLES MAY MAKESAME SORT OF
DISTINCTION WHEN FORBIDDING VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF
POLISH PASSPORTS TO BE STAMPED WITH FRG VISAS FOR
VISITS TO WEST BERLIN WHICH USG MAKES WITH RESPECT
TO PASSIVELY ACCEPTING OR REFUSING GDR BORDER STAMPS
WHEN CORSSIN BETWEEN WEST AND EAST
BERLIN. END SUMMARY.

1. SURING PAST YEAR THE POLISH MILITARY MISSION HAS
BEEN RENOVATING ITS OFFICES IN THE WESTERN SECTORS
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OF BERLIN. TO CARRY OUR THE RENOVATION WORK
POLES HAVE SENT TO WEST BERLIN A NUMBER OF SPECIALLY
QUALIFIED TECHNICAL AND SUPERVISORY WORKERS EMPLOYED
BY THE POLISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO ARE
DOCUMENTED WITH SERVICE(OFFICIAL) PASSPORTS, AND AN
ADDITIONAL GROUP OF " ORDINARY" WORKERS DOCUMENTED
WITH ORDINARY POLISH PASSPORTS. UNDER AN ARRANGE-

MENT WORKED OUT WITH THE ALLIES 14 MONTHS AGO AND CONSISTENT WITH ALLIED BK/L(67)15, THESE WORKERS (MFA EMPLOYEES AND ORDINARY WORKERS ALIKE) WERE ISSUED ALLIED TRAVEL OFFICE (ATO) VISITORS' PERMITS WHICH COULD BE MADE VALID FOR STAYS IN WEST BERLIN OF UP TO ONE YEAR. IN EARLY FEBRUARY THE POLISH MILITARY MISSION ADVISED THE ALLIED (BRITISH) REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ATO THAT ALTHOUGH THE BASIC RENOVATION WORK AT THE POLISH MILITARY MISSION HAD BEEN COMPLETED, THE POLES WISHED TO HAVE SEVERAL OF THEMFA WORKERS REMAIN IN WEST BERLIN FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS TO FINISH UP SOME OF THE WORK WHICH WAS NOT QUITE COMPLETED AND TO CARRY OUT ADDITIONAL WORK WHICH WAS DISCOVERED TO BE NECESSARY DURING THE MAJRO RENOVATION PROJECT. THE ALLIED ATO REPRESENTATIVE TURNED DOWN THE POLISH REQUEST AND ADVISED THE POLISH MISSION THAT NO EXTENSION OF THEIR PERMITS WAS POSSIBLE AND THAT THE WORKERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN FRG VISAS FROM THE FRG EMBASSY IN WARSAW IF THEY WISHED TO CONTINUE WORKING IN WEST BERLIN. IN REPLY, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POLSIH MISSION SAID THAT IT WAS "UNTHINKABLE" AS FAR AS POLES WERE CONCERNED THAT "DIPLOMATIC" WORKERS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A VISA FROM THE FRG REPRESENTATION IN WARSAW " SINCE THEIR STATUS DID NOT PERMIT THEM TO APPLY." ON THE OTHER HAND, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POLSIH MILITARY MISSION MADE IT CLEAR THAT ORDINARY WORKERS COULD AND DID REGULARLY OBTAIN FRG VISAS IN ORDER TO WORK IN WEST BERLIN.
(FOR THE RECORD BRITISH SUBSEQUENTLY RELENTED AND
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UPON HEARING APPEAL FROM ACTIG HEAD OF POLISH MILITARY MISSION ARRANGED TO PERMIT SEVEN WORKERS TO RETURN TO WEST BERLI UNTIL JULY 4, WITH UNDERSTANDING NO FURTHER EXTENSIONS WOULD BE GRANTED.)

2. THIS IS, AS FAR AS MISSION KNOWS, FIRST TIME THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF EAST BLOC COUNTRY HAS DRAWN DIS- TINCTION AS TO WHICH CLASSES OF PASSPORT HOLDERS MAY OR MAY NOT ACCEPT "OBJECTIONABL" (FROM EAST BLOC POINT OF VIEW) FRG VISAS TO VISIT WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN. IN ADDITION TO NOTING STRKING PARALLEL BETWEEN POLISH GOVERNMENT'S VIEW AND OUR OWN AS TO WHO MAY ACCEPT "OBJECTINABLE" STAMPS IN THEIR PASSPORT WHEN TRAVELING TO WEST AND EAST BERLIN RESPECTIVELY(REF A), WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING WHETHER OTHER EASTERN EUROEPAN COUNTRIES LIKEWISE PERMIT ORDINARY CITIZENS TO ACCEPT FRG VISAS TO VISIT WEST BERLIN WHILE REFUSING TO PERMIT THEIR OFFICIALS TO DO SO. BONN GROUP REP

MAY WISH TO INQUIRE OF FRG WHETHER ITS EMBASSIES IN
EASTERN EUROPE HAVE AT ANY TIME MADE OBSERVATIONS
ALONG THIS LINE.
GEORGE

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